

City of Burien

BURIEN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

June 24, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Shared Conference Room

MINUTES

Planning Commission Members Present:

Janet Shull, Stacie Grage, Rebecca McInteer, Joe Fitzgibbon, Edward Bohn

Absent: Jim Clingan

Others Present:

David Johanson, senior planner; Liz Ockwell, assistant planner

Roll Call

Chair Janet Shull called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. At the call of the roll, all commissioners were present except Commissioner McInteer. Commissioner McInteer arrived at 7:14 p.m.

Agenda Confirmation

Motion to approve the agenda as printed was made by Commissioner Clingan. Second was by Commissioner Grage and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Tracie Sarsfield, 520 S. 146th St., stated that she and her partner own two homes in Burien, one as their primary residence and one as a rental property. She said South 146th Street becomes South 144th Way as it connects to Des Moines Memorial Drive South and SeaTac seems to be encouraging use of 146th instead of 24th Avenue South by the trucks accessing the warehouses near the airport. Ms. Sarsfield said she and her partner have problems with numerous large commercial trucks on that street. Since August 15th, 2007, they have been trying to work with Steve Clark, Burien Public Works director, to get a sign posted on that street that no trucks over 10,000 pounds are allowed on 146th. The speed limit is 25, but everyone exceeds the speed limit. Ms. Sarsfield said she would like a stop sign to be placed at Mathison Park; currently, a large commercial truck exceeding the speed limit cannot stop in time for someone in the crosswalk.

Approval of Minutes

A. June 10, 2008

Commissioner Bohn questioned whether the sentence "Consensus was to let the City Council know the commission would like to provide input on annexation when opportunities arise" accurately reflects the outcome of the commissioners' discussion on annexation. They agreed to leave the sentence in the minutes but talk more about annexation during the Planning Commissioner Communications item on tonight's agenda. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Grage. Second was by Commissioner Fitzgibbon and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

None

Old Business

A. 2008 Comprehensive Plan Docket Recommendation

Senior Planner David Johanson summarized the packet memo about the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Docket Recommendation and the steps for amending the Comprehensive Plan. He said the staff recommendation is to err on the side of caution and go through each individual proposed amendment and make a recommendation as to its place on the docket, although the commissioners could decide to make a recommendation on the docket in its entirety, if they so choose.

Chair Shull asked the commissioners what their preference is – make a recommendation on each individual item or on the docket as a whole. Commissioner Grage moved that the Planning Commission recommend to the City Council that proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments 2008-1 through 2008-8 be included on the 2008 Comprehensive Plan docket. Second was by Commissioner Fitzgibbon and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Shull asked if the commissioners wished to prioritize the proposed amendments. Commissioner Bohn said he knew 2008-7, Ruth Dykeman Children's Center Comprehensive Plan map amendment and rezone request, is critical to the center's survival and should be high priority. Commissioner Shull agreed and suggested that 2008-1, the SW 141st Street pocket park Comprehensive Plan map amendment, be grouped with it.

David Johanson reminded the commissioners that even though the proposed amendments can be ranked in priority, they will move through the adoption process as one package.

B. Sustainability

Planner Liz Ockwell told the commissioners she would help them determine a Burien definition of sustainability and review the proposed timeline for achieving a recommendation on a sustainability framework.

The commissioners discussed a proposed definition included in the memo from Scott Greenberg, Community Development director: *A sustainable community is one that is socially, economically, and environmentally healthy, and balances the needs of the present with the needs of the future.*

Chair Shull offered another definition: *A sustainable community is one that is socially, economically, and environmentally healthy, and meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations.*

There was discussion about the phrase from Comprehensive Plan Section 2.1 Introduction: *"A sustainable community is a place where people want to settle and live, and where quality residential neighborhoods and commercial areas attract and retain long-term businesses and shoppers."* The commissioners agreed that they like what the phrase describes, but it is more of a goal or sub-goal than a definition.

Staff will bring back to the commission's next meeting the draft definition as established at this meeting. Staff confirmed that on August 11th there will be a presentation to the City Council on the draft definition and draft goals.

Commissioner Grage asked if there might possibly be a joint meeting of the council and commission at some point in the process of identifying a framework for sustainability. Mr. Johanson responded that staff would look into that. Chair Shull asked that clarification be provided to the commission at its July 8th meeting as to the extent of the commission's participation in the Aug. 11th City Council meeting. Commissioner Grage volunteered to represent the commission at the Aug. 11th City Council meeting.

Ms. Ockwell then walked the commission through the next two levels of the timeline for developing a recommendation on a sustainability framework. Commissioner McInteer encouraged the commissioners to do independent reading on what other cities have established as goals in preparation for the July 8th meeting.

Mr. Johanson asked if any of the commissioners had initial thoughts on goals, since there was time to discuss them. Commissioners Bohn, McInteer and Grage shared their thoughts on whether Burien is a desirable place to live and how to make it more desirable.

Planning Commission Communications

Commissioner Grage announced that the Highline School District is hosting three free immunization clinics in August.

Commissioner Fitzgibbon reported that he and Commissioner McInteer are members of the Shoreline Advisory Committee and said the committee should have draft shoreline goals and policies to share with the Planning Commission at the end of the summer.

Chair Shull opened the discussion about the commissioners' role in annexation. Mr. Johanson and Commissioner Clingan reviewed the Planning Commission's past involvement in the annexation process. Chair Shull said she doesn't feel comfortable insisting that the commission be asked to provide input to the council regarding annexation, but she would like to say to the City Council that if there are other decisions to be made on annexation, and the time frame allows, the commission would like to provide input.

Commissioner McInteer said she feels it is the commissioners' responsibility as members of an advisory board to actively seek opportunities to give input on topics such as annexation.

Commissioner Clingan said the commissioners can always decide as a group to go to the council with concerns or a recommendation; the council doesn't have to listen, but the commission can express its concerns or feelings.

Commissioner Fitzgibbon said he didn't feel it was inappropriate for the council to proceed without a recommendation from the Planning Commission, given the time frame in May. He said he believes the commission's first priority is to do what the council assigns it – at this point, working on a sustainability framework and the Comprehensive Plan docket – but should convey to the council the commission's availability to look at other issues when the council needs more input on them. He feels a complex issue like annexation may suck too much energy and time away from the tasks at hand, so the commission should be careful about getting too deeply involved.

Director's Report

Mr. Johanson reminded the commissioners about the coming weekend's Strawberry Festival. He also distributed a notice about filling the vacant Planning Commissioner's position.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Grage. Second was by Commissioner Fitzgibbon and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Shull adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Approved: _____

Janet Shull, chair
Planning Commission